



### **Customer Alert Regarding Misleading Solicitations**

The Secretary of State's office has been advised that solicitation letters are being sent to California businesses encouraging them to comply with their [California Corporations Code](#) filing obligations by submitting fees and documents to a third party rather than by filing directly with the Secretary of State's office.

These solicitations are not being made by the California Secretary of State's office and are not being made by or on behalf of any governmental entity.

The solicitations request that a fee and a completed form be submitted in order for the business to comply with applicable California or other law. The solicitations tend to have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Appear similar to a Secretary of State form (generally the Statement of Information form);
- Contain an official-looking seal;
- Quote a specific statute or other law on the form to be filled out and returned;
- Imply that failing to return the form and pay the requested fee may place the entity in legal jeopardy, or might cause the entity's filings with the California Secretary of State to be in default or noncompliant status;
- Contain a reference to a "file number," "Corp Number," "Corporation Number," or "Control Number" that does not match the number assigned to the entity by the California Secretary of State;
- Reference or quotes Corporations Code sections inapplicable to the type of entity being solicited, such as Code sections applicable to corporations when soliciting a limited liability company;
- Reference an "annual fee" or "annual payment" rather than a filing fee and that is in excess of the filing fee for a Statement of Information;
- Provide an estimated processing time for "minutes" to be prepared and mailed to the entity;
- Indicate the submitted information will be treated as private and confidential.

These companies have no affiliation with the California Secretary of State's office and no business is required to go through another company in order to file its documents with the Secretary of State's office.

Statement of Information forms and instructions are available through our website at [www.sos.ca.gov/business/](http://www.sos.ca.gov/business/), and the fee required to file the statement is \$25 for California stock and foreign corporations, and \$20 for California nonprofit corporations and all limited liability companies. Also, the Statement of Information can be submitted for filing directly by mail to Secretary of State, Statement of Information Unit, P.O. Box 944230, Sacramento, California 94244-2300, in person at 1500 11th Street, 3rd Floor, Sacramento, California, 95814, or, for most corporations, by using a credit card through the internet at <https://businessfilings.sos.ca.gov/>.

If you have received a solicitation letter that seems misleading or confusing, please contact the California Attorney General's office at the California Department of Justice, Public Inquiry Unit, P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, California 94244-2550 or through the California Attorney General's website at [www.ag.ca.gov/consumers/general.php](http://www.ag.ca.gov/consumers/general.php). The telephone number for the Public Inquiry Unit is (800) 952-5225 (toll free in California) or (916) 322-3360.

Please note that submitting the fees and filings required by the Corporations Code to a third party for filing with the Secretary of State, does not meet the business entity's statutory obligation to file a Statement of Information with the Secretary of State. Also, please note that each business entity is required to keep records, books and minutes of its proceedings, however, these items are not filed with the Secretary of State.